

February 23, 2012

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is a federally funded effort by 27 states to collaboratively develop a next-generation student assessment system. A key component of the Consortium's work focuses on capitalizing on the knowledge and skills of educators to assist in developing the items and tasks that will form the next generation assessments.

To prepare educators to develop these items and tasks, the Consortium is developing training materials that are intended to enhance educators' skills in designing and reviewing items and tasks. To assure that these training materials are of the highest quality and are effective for furthering the skills and knowledge of educators, we are seeking educators who can assist in reviewing and providing feedback on the training materials. Specifically, we are seeking educators who meet the following criteria:

1. Teach English Language Arts or Mathematics in grades 3-12
2. Have familiarity with the Common Core State Standards, and
3. Have not participated previously in the development of items for a state testing program.

The final criteria has been established to help ensure that the information presented in the training modules is presented in a manner that is clear to educators who have not been exposed to the process and procedures that guide development of items and tasks for large-scale state-tests.

The review of and feedback on materials will occur in two phases. During the first phase, we will ask a set of educators to review draft versions of the training materials and to provide feedback on the readability and clarity of information presented in the materials. For this phase of the project, the participants will be presented with a set of 10-12 scripts over a five week period (starting as soon as March 5) and will be asked to identify words or phrases that are unfamiliar, poorly described, and/or concepts that are presented in a confusing manner. Participants will not be asked to make changes to the scripts; only to identify sections that are in need of improvement. Each script will generally range from 8 to 10 pages of text and will be written for a person whose voice will be recorded as the content of the script is read aloud. We expect this to require approximately 25 hours of work over a 5-week period, or approximately 5 hours per week.

During the second phase, we will ask a second set of educators to attend a one-and-a-half day on-site (up to 3 days with travel) workshop to be held in Dover, NH or Boston, MA on or about April 12-13. The workshop will present the training materials in a professional development setting. Participants will be asked to critique the training materials with the goal of helping us make the materials as effective as possible.

Educators who participate in the first phase will be provided with a \$1,500 stipend. Educators who participate in the second phase will be provided with a \$1,000 stipend and all travel to and from Boston or Dover will be covered by the project.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Tinamarie Skillings at Skillings.Tinamarie@measuredprogress.org.